

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: Satania

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 1800427.000

Medium: Book

Author: Fabien Vehlmann

Publisher: Nantier-Beall-Minoustchine

Country of origin: France

Language: English

Applicant: Rowan Louise Durward

Classification:	Unrestricted: Suitable for mature audiences 16 years of age and over.
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Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 22 November 2018

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 22 November 2018

Summary of reasons for decision:

'Satania' is a graphic novel in the subterranean fiction genre that touches on the darkness inherent in humanity and also on the conflicted relationship we have with sexuality, in particular women's sexuality, in society more generally. The Chief Censor granted leave to submit this book for examination in response to a complaint from a member of the public who raised concerns about its sexual content and the fact that its graphic style would be appealing to children. While the Classification Office agrees that the book is drawn in an art style that is likely to attract younger audiences, they are unlikely to understand or engage with the book's darker and more frightening themes. The references to sexual matters, including sexual violence, and some low-level depictions of physical violence, are not presented to an extent or degree where a legal restriction on the book's availability would be justified. The sexual content is not intended to titillate its readers. The primary reading of the text, like many pieces of subterranean fiction, is a fantastic journey with some subversive undertones, particularly around religious and sexual mores in modern day society. The horrific elements of the book evoke a larger sense of thematic and cosmic horror rather than an immediate visceral shock. There is little classifiable content outside of this. As such, these elements are unlikely to cause injury to the public good, but this content makes the book more appropriate for mature readers. The book is therefore classified as unrestricted with a recommendation that it is more suitable for mature audiences 16 years of age and over. This decision is consistent with the right to freedom of expression contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

